

To: Appropriations Committee

February 15, 2013

Thank you for letting the public give testimony. My name is Jamie Lazaroff. I am a person who has a Developmental Disability. I am also the Self-Advocate Coordinator at The Arc Quinebaug Valley in Danielson, Connecticut and work with The Arc Connecticut on statewide issues concerning people with disabilities. I am also the Secretary of the Governor's Council on Developmental Services. I am here to testify on the DDS budget. Any more cuts to the DDS budget would limit our flexibility in providing everyday services that you and most people take for granted. For people with disabilities to live past our basic needs and pay taxes and be contributing members of our community we need DDS to be fully funded.

My suggestion as a cost cutting measure is for the Department of Developmental Services to get out of the service delivery business and strictly do real oversight with quality review with self-advocate input. The savings of the state getting out of the service delivery business needs to be passed on to the private provider agencies that provide the majority of services to people with disabilities. One other point that could be a cost savings is closing Southbury Training School and the regional centers. According to the Commissioner that would save the state nearly 221 million dollars a year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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